

You can see how this lake has been expanding and expanding very, very dramatically.

This is one of my favorite pictures, Mr. President, because this shows the little town of Minnewaukan, ND, of 400 people, and they have a sewage lagoon—you can see the outlines of it—surrounded completely now by Devils Lake. When the Federal officials came to Devils Lake, they said to the mayor of the little town of Minnewaukan, "Gee, why did you build this sewage lagoon so close to the lake?" And the mayor and the local officials laughed and they said, "Well, when we built this sewage lagoon, it was 8 miles from the lake"—8 miles. That is how this lake has expanded. Mr. President, this is truly an extraordinary circumstance.

This next picture shows a seed company and what has happened to their operation. It is completely surrounded by water now in this area of Devils Lake. And this water is deep, by the way. It is just amazing how this lake keeps rising.

This picture shows one of the key roads, Highway 57, that connects the city of Devils Lake to the Spirit Lake Nation and to the communities south of Devils Lake. You can see the wave action. These are 5-foot waves on this lake completely breaking over the highway. In fact, if we were to go and take this picture today, this entire road now is under water. That is how rapidly this lake is rising. In fact, it has come up 4 feet already this year. And now remember, we are not talking about some little tranquil lake, we are talking about a huge expanse of water, a lake that is nearly 200 square miles in size now. That is what we are dealing with here, and the water keeps rising.

Mr. President, those are the pictures I wanted to show our colleagues. An important point I wanted to make is that in this disaster supplemental bill, there are a number of measures to address this crisis, in addition to the crisis we have in the Red River Valley, where we had the 500-year flood. We also have provisions to deal with this crisis at Devils Lake.

First, is a provision for an emergency outlet. The Corps of Engineers has determined that one of the things we need to do to fight this disaster is to have an emergency outlet, because we are very close to the point at which this lake will find its own outlet. And if it does, it will be out of the eastern end of the lake where the water quality is, by far, the worst, and it will go over into Stump Lake. At that time, Stump Lake will immediately rise 40 feet. It is hard to get your mind around these numbers because this is so massive. But when this finds its natural outlet at 1,446.6 feet—it is right now at 1,442 feet—at 1,446.6 feet, it spills over into Stump Lake, raising that lake immediately 40 feet.

At 1,457 feet, it spills over into the Sheyenne River Valley, and, as I

showed the cumulative impact, we are then talking about over \$400 million of cost to the Federal Government. The emergency outlet requires \$5 million for the work that needs to be done this year, and that is in this disaster supplemental bill.

Second, we need to raise the levy protecting the city of Devils Lake, and this legislation directs the Corps to expedite action to raise the levy system protecting the city of Devils Lake. The city right now has a dike that is protecting it to about 1,445 feet. This provision will move the protection to 1,450 feet, with 5 feet of free board to deal with the wave action on this very large lake.

Third, there are provisions for emergency funding for Federal Highway Administration to raise roads, because, as I showed, the main linkage point here is already under water. That road—Highway 57—has to be raised and needs to be raised as quickly as possible because it provides the emergency access to all of the communities south of Devils Lake and the Spirit Lake Nation to the regional hospital and the regional shopping center that is in the city of Devils Lake.

Fourth, this legislation provides for the Ramsey County rural sewer system some \$600,000 to mitigate damages from the Devils Lake flood to the Ramsey County rural sewer system. As you can imagine, Mr. President, this is a situation in which the rural sewer system is about to float. That is a very bad thing to have happen. All of those underground pipes, as the water table rises, puts enormous hydrological pressure on that rural sewer system, and they are desperately worried that at any time, those pipes will burst through the ground and float. At that point, the entire rural sewer system is destroyed. It is critically important that that money be approved and be approved as quickly as possible.

Fifth, and finally, this legislation includes \$15 million for the Natural Resources Conservation Service to purchase floodplain easements for frequently flooded farmland. Landowners in the Devils Lake basin would be eligible for this voluntary floodplain easement program.

Mr. President, I wanted to take this time to describe this disaster so there is an understanding that not only are we dealing with the crisis in the Red River basin, the cities of Grand Forks and other cities up and down the Red River, but that we have a second disaster as well, a slow-motion disaster, and that is the disaster that is occurring at Devils Lake and that there are very important matters that are included in this disaster supplemental bill that deal with those problems.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

Mr. BENNETT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Utah.

#### ORDER FOR RECESS

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following the remarks of Senator DORGAN, the Senate stand in recess until the hour of 3 p.m. today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DORGAN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Chair recognizes the Senator from North Dakota.

#### DISASTER RELIEF IS URGENT

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to follow my colleague, Senator CONRAD, who has spent an enormous amount of time and effort dealing with the flooding issues that have afflicted our region of the country. It seems to me that there is some good news on the horizon, and it appears that finally the logjam may be broken. It appears finally, perhaps today, the Congress will pass a bill that contains much-needed disaster relief that the President will sign and that hope and help will be offered and restored to the people of Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota who are victims of this disaster. Even as it appears there are these signs this may happen today, I want to, once again, describe a bit about why we have maintained that it is so urgent that disaster relief be provided for disaster victims.

Senator CONRAD and I represent the State of North Dakota in the U.S. Senate. We are a small State, in many ways. We are 10 times the size of the State of Massachusetts in landmass. It is a pretty big State geographically, but about 640,000 people live in our State. It is a wonderful place to live, and we have a lot of wonderful things to talk about with respect to North Dakota.

Regrettably, the only thing people from the outside who don't come to North Dakota regularly see about our State is to tune in on the morning shows perhaps on a February morning or January morning, and they see that someone says that there is a blizzard or it is cold in our part of the country. It gets that way sometimes. Other times in January or February, it is quite nice. I don't suppose that we could really, in good faith, tell people that in January and February in North Dakota it is balmy and sunny and warm and an equivalent vacation spot to California or Florida. I don't suppose we could do that with great credibility. It does get a little cold sometimes.

In fact, we had a fellow who was in jail in North Dakota, and from his jail cell, he petitioned a judge to extend his jail sentence for 90 days because he alleged that his rights would be violated if he were released from jail in December in North Dakota. He said it was too cold, didn't have clothing, so on and so forth. He asked the judge if the judge would extend his jail sentence for 90 days. The judge promptly told him, no, that he won't extend his jail sentence.